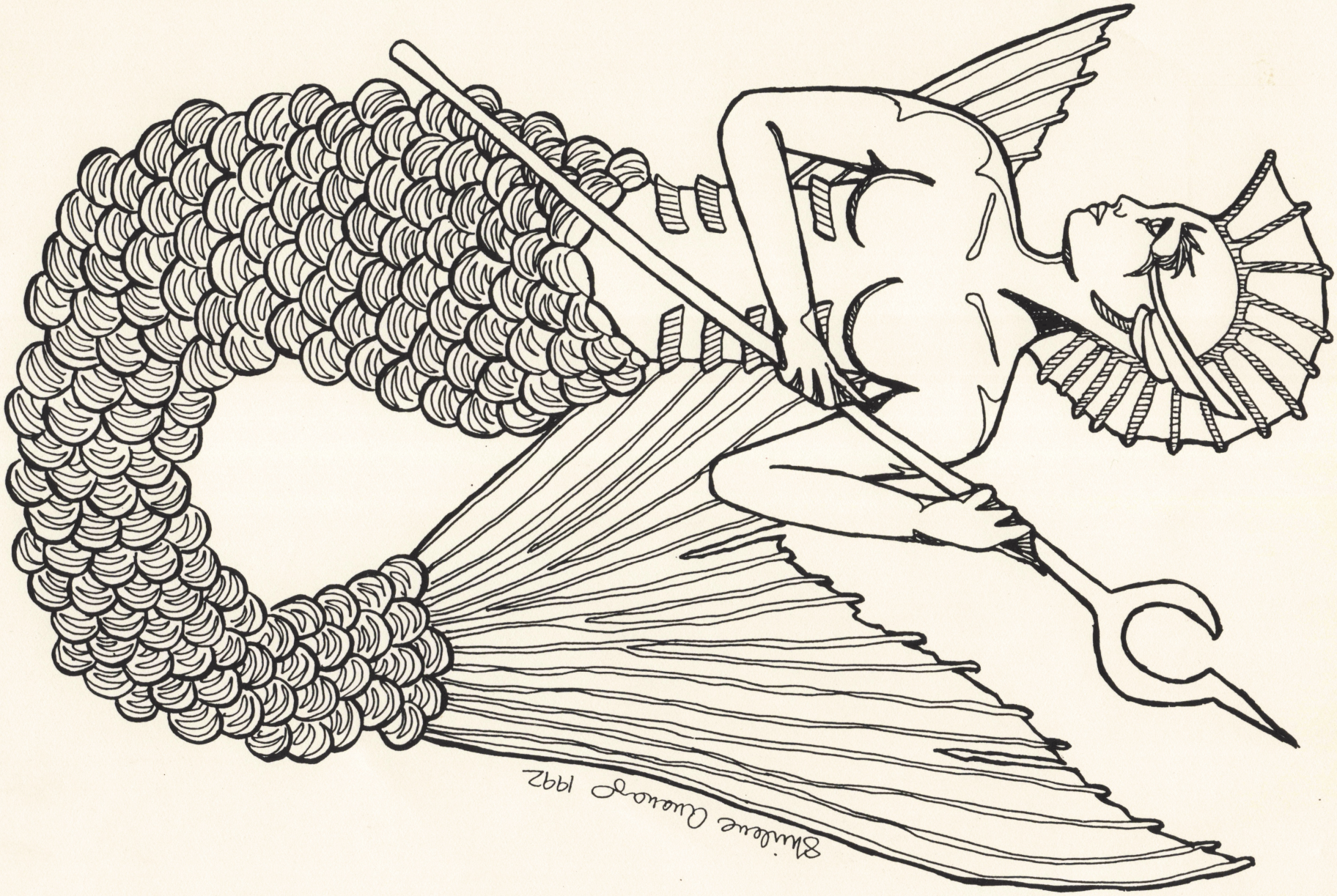
TROPICAL AIRS



TROPICAL AIRS

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The idea for this songbook popped up among the semi-random musings during the drive back from Magicon. It's intended to promote filking in Florida and, hopefully, to provide enjoyment to all the filkers who use it.

We are most grateful to the contributors: Cecilia Eng, Leslie Fish, Frank Hayes, Valerie Housden, Shirlene Ananayo, Dina Pearlman, Doug Wu, Chuck Phillips, and Francine Mullen. We thank Firebird Arts and Music very much for permission to include the songs by Cecilia Eng, Leslie Fish, and Frank Hayes. Thanks also to Shirlene for the cover art, to Fran for helping with the music entry, and especially to Kathy Wu for formating the text and for printing the masters on her laser printer.

Don Cochran

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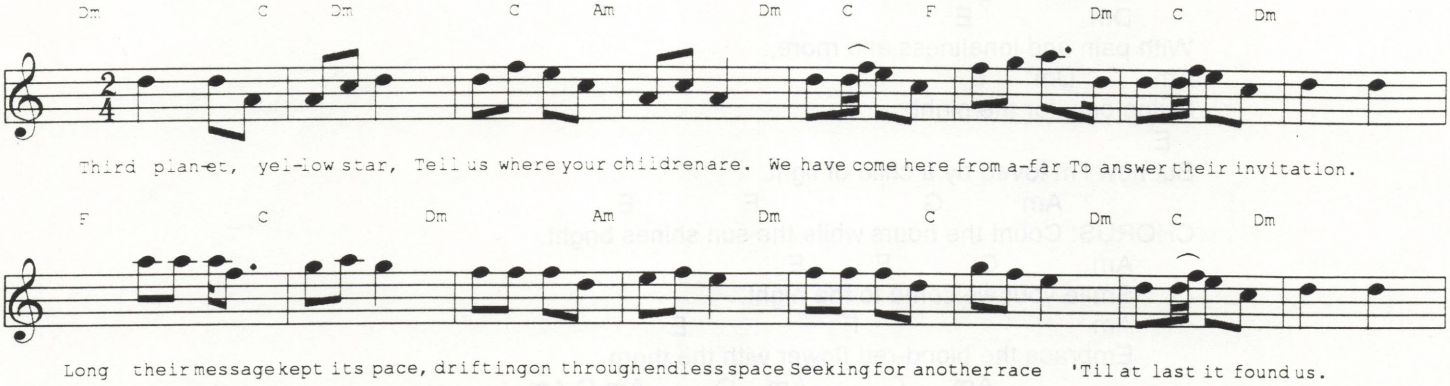
Absent Hosts

By Cecilia A. Eng
copyright 1985



Dm C Dm
Third planet, yellow star,
C Am
Tell us where your children are.
Dm C F
We have come here from afar
Dm C Dm F C
To answer their invitation. Long their message kept its pace,
Dm Am
Drifting on through endless space
Dm C
Seeking for another race
Dm C Dm
'Til at last it found us.

Far your children's plea was cast.
Since it launch, much time has passed.
Here its trail led us at last,
Tell us where to find them! Can we find them far away?
Did some leave before the day
That Death came to this place to stay?
Tell us where to find them!

Dead planet, yellow star.
Was it just another war?
Did your children die before
We found their invitation? From dust we come, to dust retire;
Life, too soon, will oft expire.
Poisoned winds and deadly fire
Are all they've left to greet us.

Third planet, yellow star,
Tell us where your children are.
We have come here from afar
To answer their invitation.

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Dark Wine and Roses

by Cecilia A. Eng
copyright 1992

E Am
I have lived an age or four
Dm E
With pain and loneliness and more,
Am Dm E
Living only for the night
E
But now I'm loved by a child of light.
Am G F E
CHORUS: Count the hours while the sun shines bright.
Am G F E
Smile your welcome to the night.
Am F E
Embrace the blood-red flower with the thorn
Am C Am G Am G Am
And dream of dark wine and roses till the morn.

You con join me if you dare
To love a creature of the air,
But I should warn you -- if you do
The sunlight shall be lost to you, but ... (CHORUS)

Those who hear my wolves at bay
Cower in their beds till day
But if you'll overcome yours fears
Our love will last a thousand years, so ... (CHORUS)

And if you'll return my love
While the moon shines hight above
With my blood, I'll share my power
In the dark of the midnight hour, then we'll -

Alt Ch: Dream together while the sun shines bright.
Smile OUR welcome to the night.
Embrace the blood-red flower with the thorn
Enjoying dark wine and roses till the morn.
Am G F E
Dark wine and roses,
Am G F E
Dark wine and roses,
Am G F G Am G Am
Dark wine and roses till the morn.

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Humanifest Destiny

by Cecilia A. Eng
copyright 1987

A D E7 A
I've never seen the future in crystal or in tea
D A E7
And horoscopes and tarot cards are mysteries to me.
D A D E7 A
I'll never know when Jupiter aligns itself with mars,
D A E7 D - A
But believe me when I say I see your future in the stars.

I don't know much of science or space technology.
I don't know where our steps will lead -- what visions we will see,
But I have dreams of humankind at peace on alien shores
And hope that you will hear my words; your future's in the stars.

We've left our mark on Luna; our shuttles were our pride,
But we too often made mistakes and astronauts have died,
So we must learn to fly once more in spite of pain and scars
And make the dream reality - our future's in the stars.

I'll never be among the first to reach a distant sun,
But if I die still planetbound, don't think my song is done.
For someday there will echo songs on ships between the stars
And I'll be with them as they build our future in the stars.

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Realativity

by Cecilia A. Eng
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```
                A                          E7
CHORUS: I've a dragon in my pocket and a Teddy in my arms,
            E7                          A
     And a glass of cold fresh milk, yes indeed!
          D                          A
     And life is one big chocklit chip-type cookie just for me,
          E7                        A
     And that's the Real way of life I lead!

      A                          E7
Well, life is filled with whimsey if you read between the runes,
     E7                              A
And books are filled with magic, don'tcha see?
          D              E7          A          F#m
There's a wizard in each airship flown by NASA, truthfully -
     D              E7        A
And all of this seems obvious to me.
```

(CHORUS)

If you can't see life's humor, let me lend a helping hand.
Just give me paint and pencil, wait and see!
Just open up your eyes to all the jests behind the scenes,
And you can find the Real life with me!

(CHORUS)

Now everywhere you look there is a dragon close at hand:
In the pantry, in the closet, in the tree!
And once you learn the magic, they will fill your world with glee,
And you can live the Real life like me!

(CHORUS)

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Unreal Estate

by Cecilia A. Eng
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```
      D                                  Em
Well, ev'ryone knows space is where good money's to be made;
     A                        D
The frontier o' the future where all of Earth'll trade!
      D                        Em
But ya gotta git yer money in ta make sure you git paid,
          A                                A   D
That's why I got me a real good deal on an ast'roid!

                          G                    D
CHORUS: And they said "Step right up here, don't be shy!
          A7          D
     Come git yerself a piece o' the pie!
      G                D
     Bring yer cash and let's make a deal!
          A                          A    D
     We'll sell you estates that are quite unreal!"
```

Well, it ain't got runnin' water, in fact the atmosphere is froze,
And it's kinda off the beaten path where no spaceship ever goes,
But the salesman said it's real estate like this that's _bound_ to grow,
And I got me a real good deal on an ast'roid!

(CHORUS)

They said they'd guarantee I'll have a lotta silicone,
And they swear that that's the mineral that ev'ryone should own,
Why jus' think about the market in computer chips alone!
And they gave me a real good deal on an ast'roid!

(CHORUS)

Well, I had ta decide real quick because they couldn't hold the deal,
They said P. T. Barnum says there's lotsa folks to whom this would appeal,
So if I didn't buy right then, I'd miss out on a steal,
So I got me a real good deal on an ast'roid!

(CHORUS)

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Hymn to the Night-Mare

by Leslie Fish

If I see her again, I must die or heal
In the bleak dark wood on the stone-ringed hill
When the year wears down and the trees are bare
In the form of an upright white-fanged mare.
For where she appears Death is on the air
And someone in sight must die!

Have you seen her again in the dark and cold,
The night-black mare and her grim nine foal,
With her thigh-bone staff and her white skull globe,
With her cyclone crown and her storm cloud robe,
With her red-black eyes that no light can probe,
When more than a few must die?

We will see her again when the Earth shall cry,
When the hills fall down and the seas run high.
She will strike her hoof on the earthquake fault
With her twelve limbs bared to the Heaven's vault.
She will dance in flame till the stars cry halt
And all but a few shall die.

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The Clock on the Wall

by Frank Hayes

Bb
I think you knew I loved you from the start,
F7
And I know you knew you thought we'd never part.
Eb F7
Our love, it was a nova,
Bb
But then you said it's ovah
F7 Bb
And you left that big black hole down in my heart.

I can't forget the night you threw me out.
F7
Though I don't recall just what we fought about.
Eb F7 Bb
But it hurts so bad I thought my heart would burst.
F7 Bb
Dear, you might at least have let me suit up first.

And the clock on the wall keeps on tickin',
F7 Bb
Countin' the time since you've been gone.

Now, nothin' is left to carry me on,
F7 Bb
Nothin' at all but the clock on the wall.

Rushin' through the intersteller night,
Thirty-seven times the speed of light.
And I can't hear the rhyme,
The scansion, or the time,
'Cause when you go this fast, the clocks run backwards.
So you left me stranded and alone,
Here without a life to call my own.
When that clock turns back a month or more,
I know you'll come walkin' right back through that door.

And the clock on the wall keeps on tickin',
Countin' the hours since you've been gone.
Now, nothin' is left to carry me on,
Nothin' at all but the clock on the wall.

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Death Must Have a Reason

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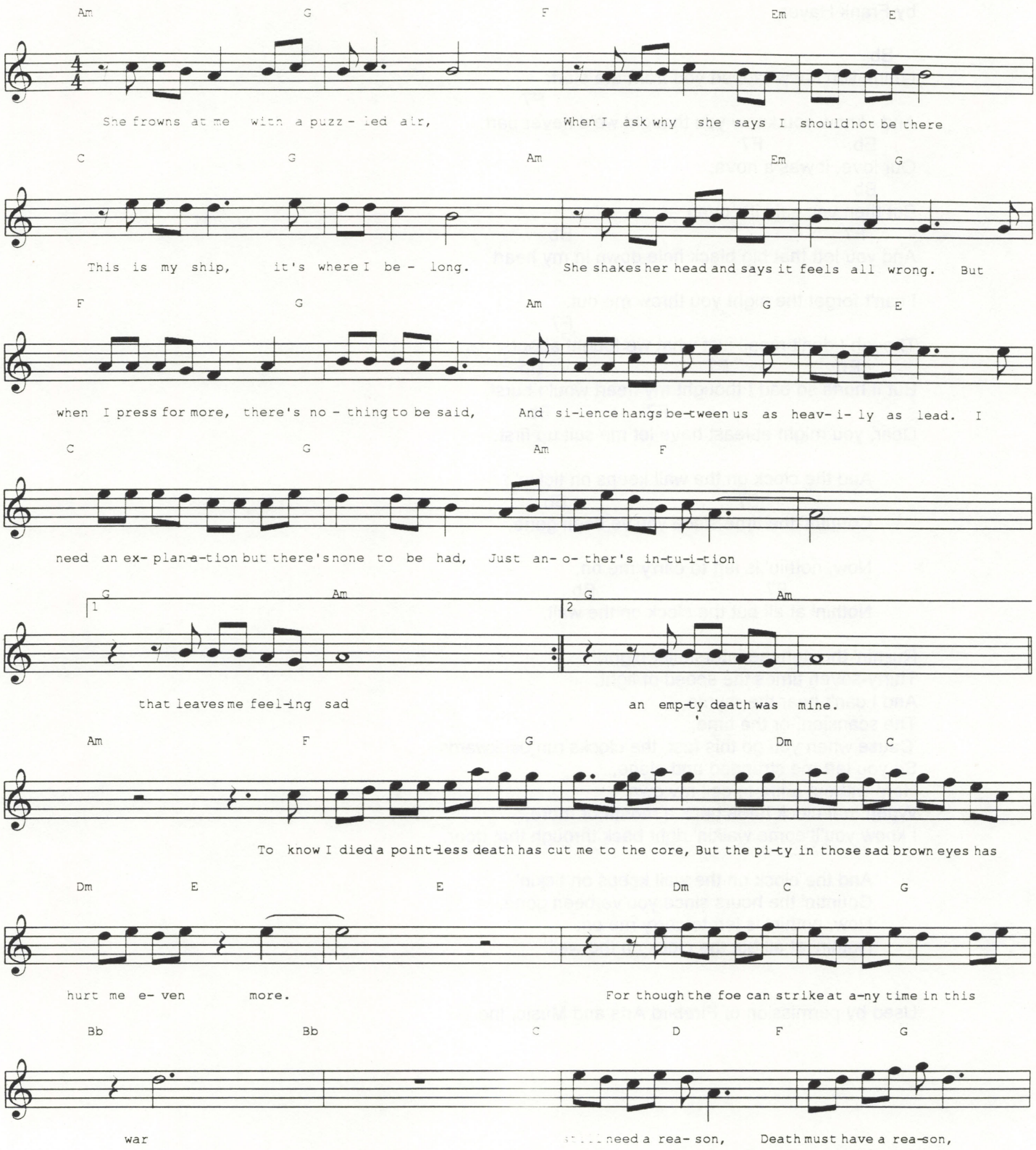
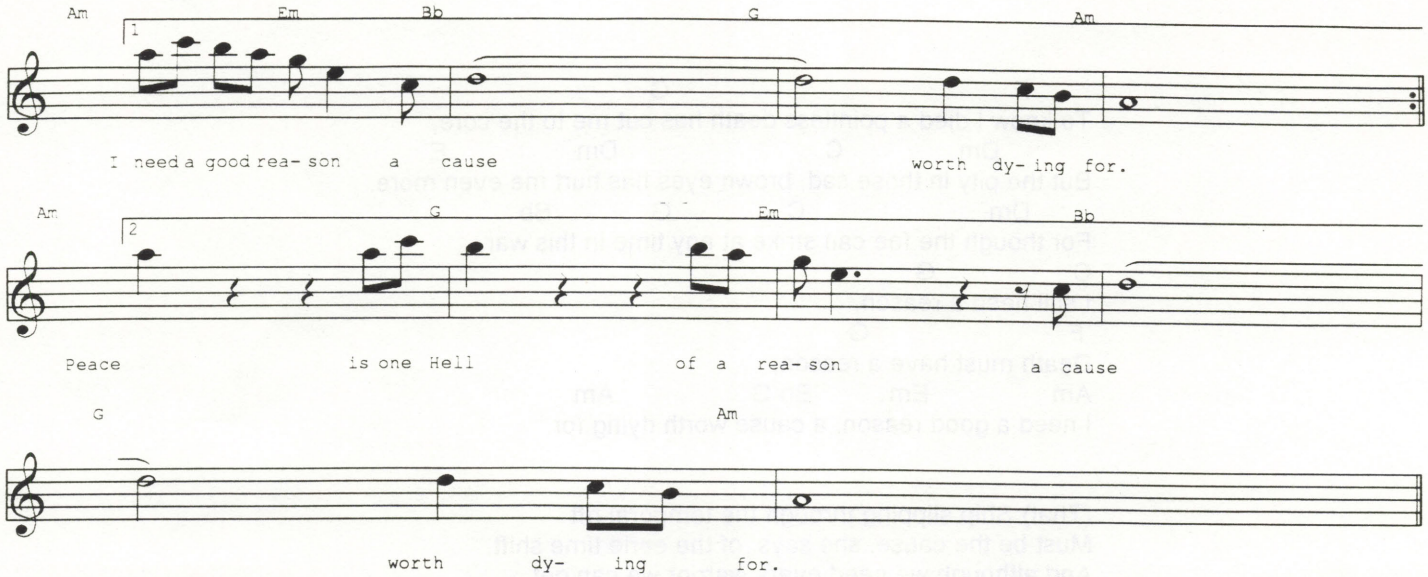




Am G
She frowns at me with a puzzled air.
F Em E
When I ask why, she says I should not be there.
C G
This is my ship, it's where I belong.
Am Em G
She shakes her head and says it feels all wrong.
F G
But when I press for more, there's nothing to be said,
Am G E
And silence hangs between us as heavily as lead.
C G
I need an explanation, but there's none to be had,
Am F G Am
Just another's intuition that leaves me feeling sad.

We heard the call from the stricken ship
That came forward in time, through the fold it slipped,
Fleeing a battle it could not survive,
The remaining crew were barely alive,
From the start of a war that has lasted twenty years.
We now face the reality of our very worst fears.
She says, there was peace not war in that other time line.
She shakes her head and says then, an empty death was mine.

F G
To know I died a pointless death has cut me to the core,
Dm C Dm E
But the pity in those sad, brown eyes has hurt me even more.
Dm C G Bb
For though the foe can strike at any time in this war,
C G
I still need a reason,
F G
Death must have a reason,
Am Em Bb G Am
I need a good reason, a cause worth dying for.

(That) Ship slipping through the temporal rift
Must be the cause, she says, of the eerie time shift.
And although we need every warrior we can get,
To send that ship back twenty years would be better yet.
The battle was a massacre - it seems too much to ask
But the crew respond with honour to their suicidal task
To aid our erstwhile foe in a fight they know was lost.
It means Peace with our enemy - but must I pay the cost?

To know I died a pointless death is more than I can bear,
Let me go back with that tragic ship, their bloody fate I'll share,
Return means certain slaughter, but that prevents a war,
And I still need a reason,
Death must have a reason,
Am G Em Bb G Am
And Peace is one Hell of a reason, a cause worth dying for.

Joe the SMOF

lyrics by Don Cochran
melody "Jack the Slob" by Leslie Fish

G D G C G C D
Once there was a Big Name Fan; fan, fan, merry merry fan.
G C D G C
A great convention he did plan; plan, plan, merry merry plan.
G D G
A World Con he did plan.

A con committee he did choose; choose, choose, merry merry choose ;
Fans he knew would not refuse; 'fuse, 'fuse, merry merry 'fuse;
The fools would not refuse.

The site would have a magic name; name, name, merry merry name;
To give the con bid instant fame; fame, fame, merry merry fame;
And win it by acclaim.

Joe the SMOF to great Ghu prayed; prayed, prayed, merry merry prayed;
To fulfill the plans he made; made, made, merry merry made;
He asked Ghu for Ghis aid.

Said Ghu to Joe, "I am impressed, 'pressed, 'pressed, merry merry 'pressed;
But three things I must request, 'quest, 'quest, merry, merry, 'quest;
I strongly do suggest!"

A fan-topped beanie you must wear; wear, wear, merry merry wear;
Upon your scalp so thin and bare; hair, hair, merry merry hair.
And wear it everywhere.

A World Con one-shot publish you; you, you, merry merry you;
A hundred pages long will do; do, do, merry merry do;
If time allows, do two.

Third, my image you must rear; rear, rear, merry merry rear;
From ten thousand cans of bheer; bheer, bheer, merry merry bheer;
A monument to cheer.

Joe replied, "This cannot be; be, be, merry merry be;
I must preserve my dignity; 'ty, 'ty, merry merry 'ty.
A beanie's not for me.

"I cannot pub a con one-shot; shot, shot, merry merry shot;
Nor have a bheer bust on the spot; spot, spot, merry merry spot.
No time can I allot."

Ghu said, "Now, I tell you true; true, true, merry merry true;
Fafia's too good for you; you, you, merry merry you."
Your atitude you'll rue."

"I pronounce your sentence clear; clear, clear, merry merry clear;
Appropriate and most severe; 'vere, 'vere, merry merry 'vere.
Run World Con every year."

(Any resemblance to World Con chairs living or gafiated is purely humoric.)

Misty's Song, Ver. 1.2

lyrics by Shirlene Ananayo
melody "The Sunhawks" by Cecilia Eng

Am Dm C G
Misty is a writer - a favorite is she -
Am G Am E
Who used to work at data crunch for an airline company.
Dm Am G E
She left it for a writer's life, preferring to live free.
Am G Am G Am
She learned how best to write a book and "commit a trilogy"!

Misty called 'em Heralds of Valdemar; wrote of Companions white.
Who some mistook for horses when glimpsed upon first sight.
Companions with their Chosen rode onward into war...
And by the end of the third book her fans all screamed for more!

Misty did oblige us and wrote a trilogy,
Of Vanyel and his problems as last herald-mage, you see.
For in Valdemar of old before dear Talia's time
Mage heralds were all being killed without reason, without rhyme.

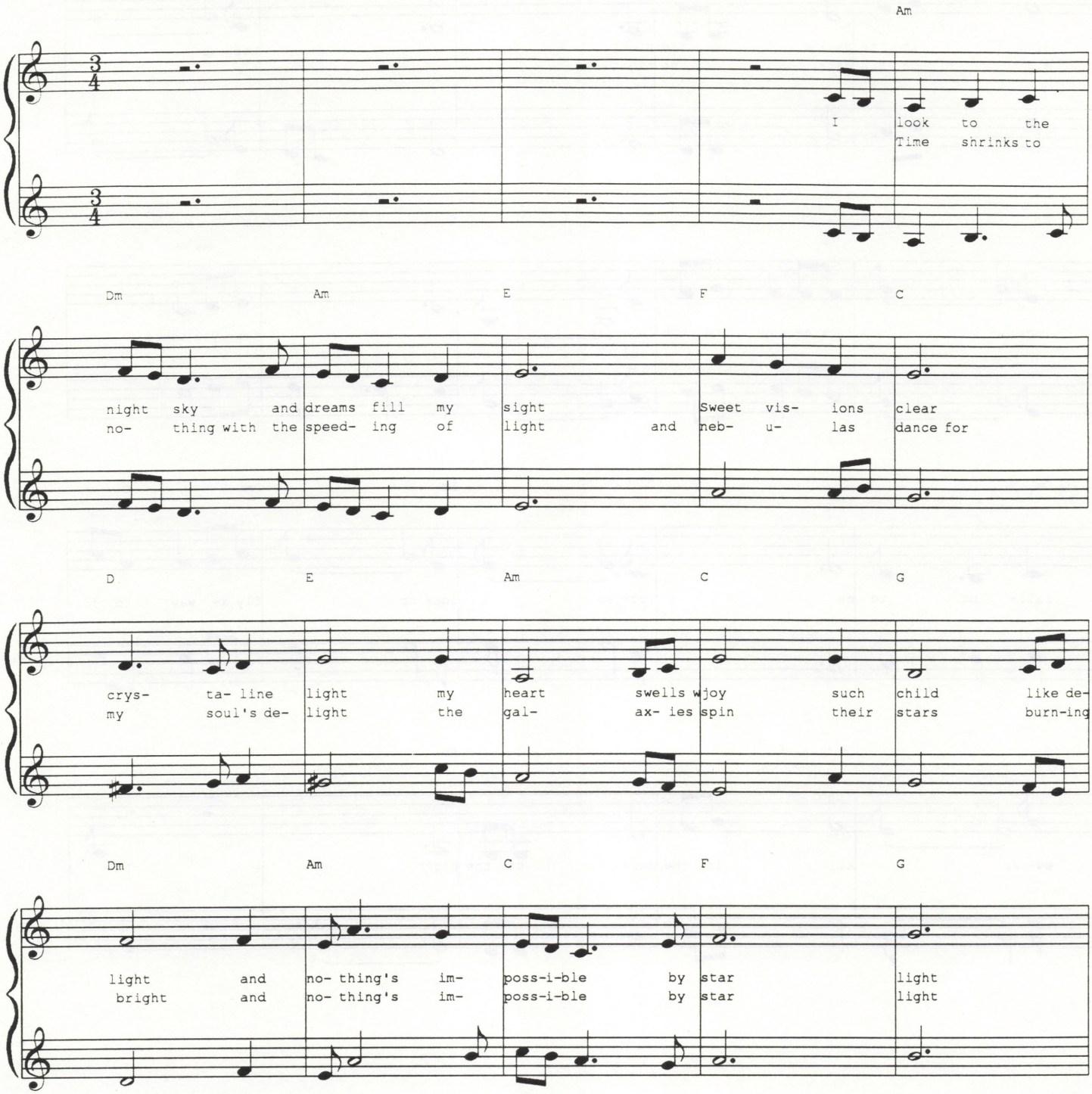
Misty's also written 'bout spells and witches too.
In Diana Tregarde mysteries what is a fan to do?
I rushed to special order but bookstores did not mind...
'Cause I found they'd ordered more for fellow fans to find.

Misty's written other books with other friends who write,
Of cars and elves and dragons and ships aloft in flight.
And through it all, she'll gather fans who'll read her stuff and say
"We love the books and we want more; could you sign my books today?"

Night Sky

Dina Pearlman

Douglas F. Wu



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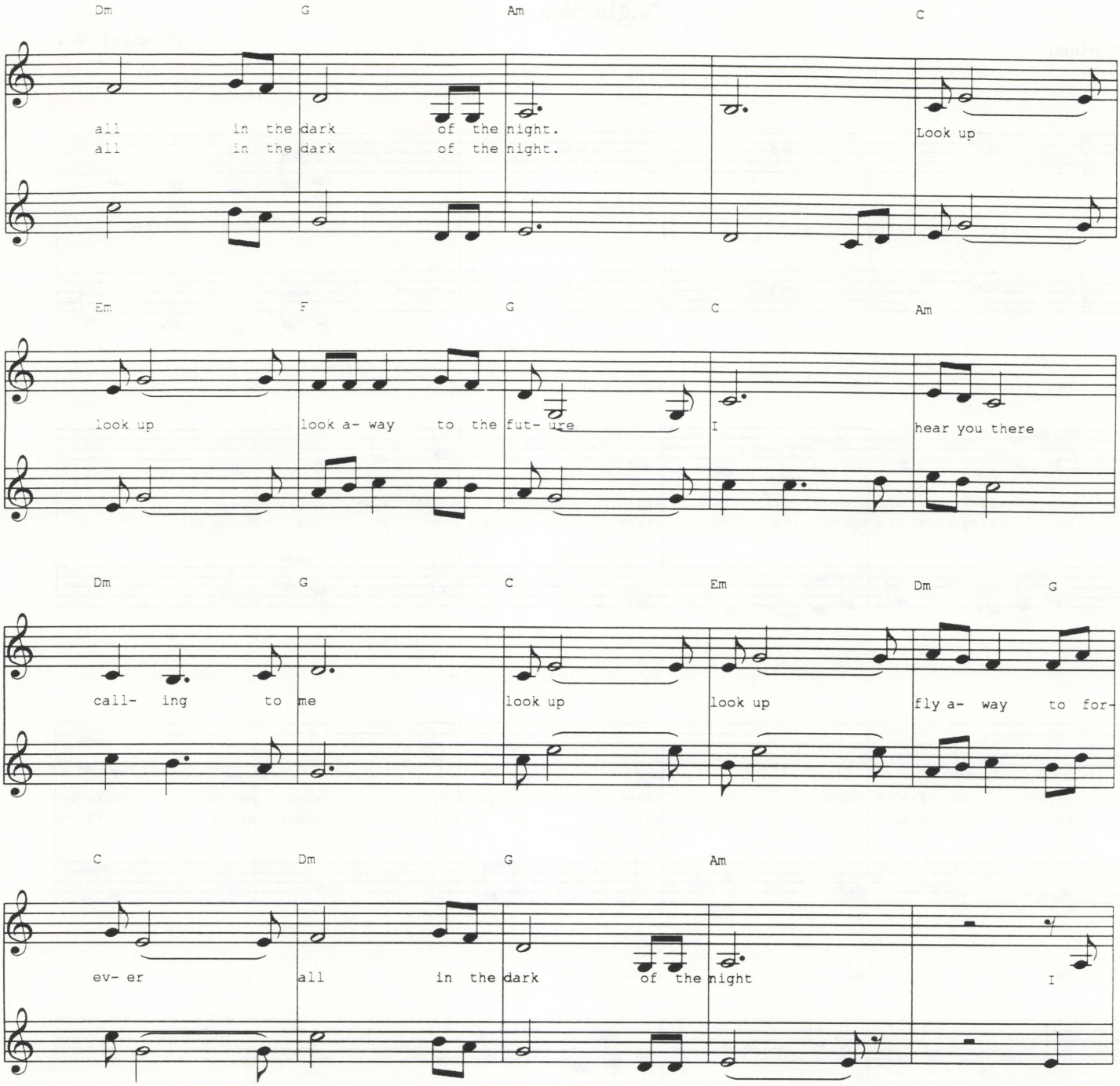
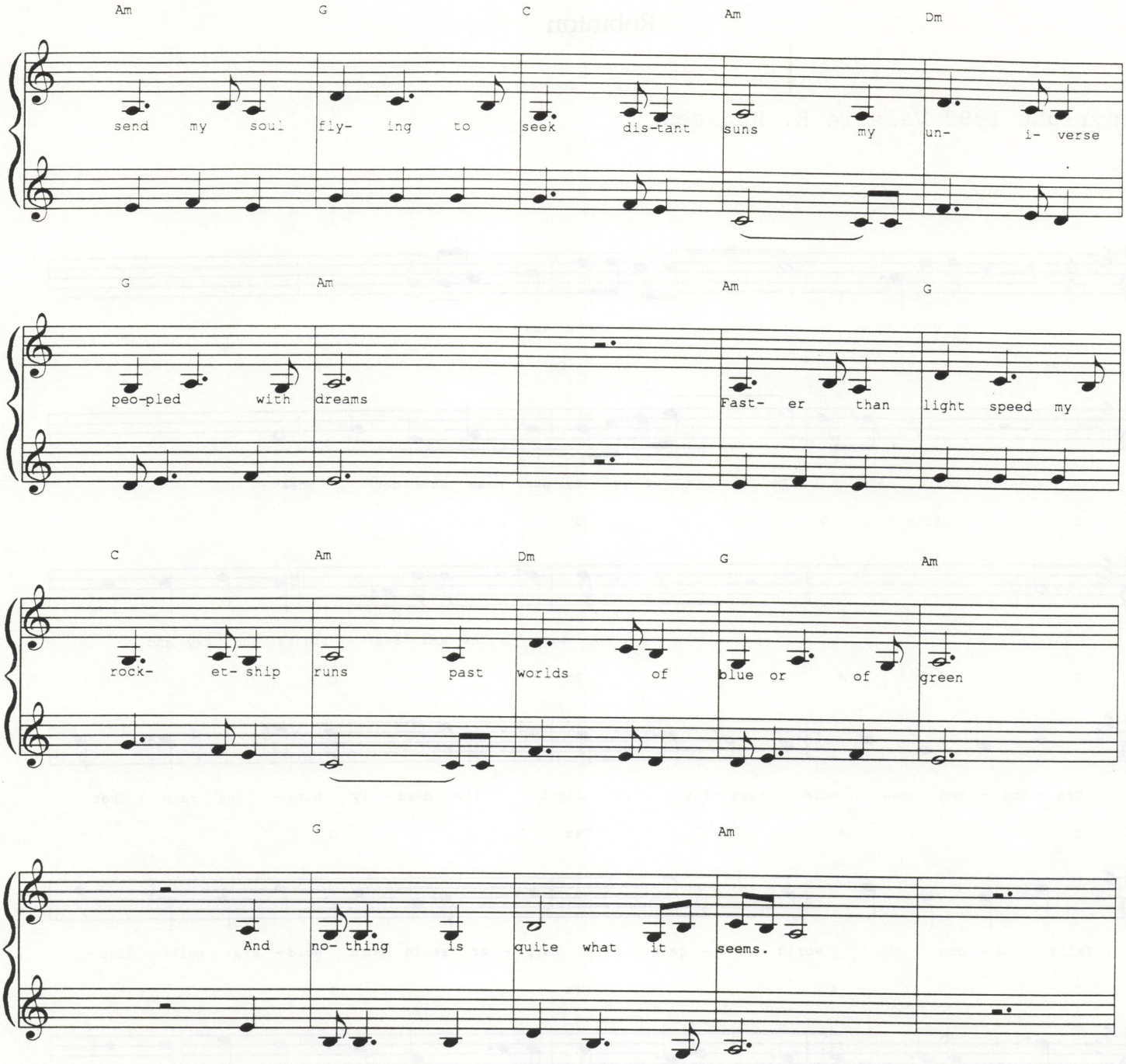

Dm G Am C
all in the dark of the night.
all in the dark of the night.
Look up
Em F G C Am
look up look a- way to the fut- ure
I hear you there
Dm G C Em Dm G
call- ing to me look up look up fly a- way to for-
C Dm G Am
ev- er all in the dark of the night
I


Am G C Am Dm
send my soul fly- ing to seek dis-tant suns my un- i- verse
G Am Am G
peo-pled with dreams Fast- er than light speed my
C Am Dm G Am
rock- et- ship runs past worlds of blue or of green
G Am
And no- thing is quite what it seems.

Robinton

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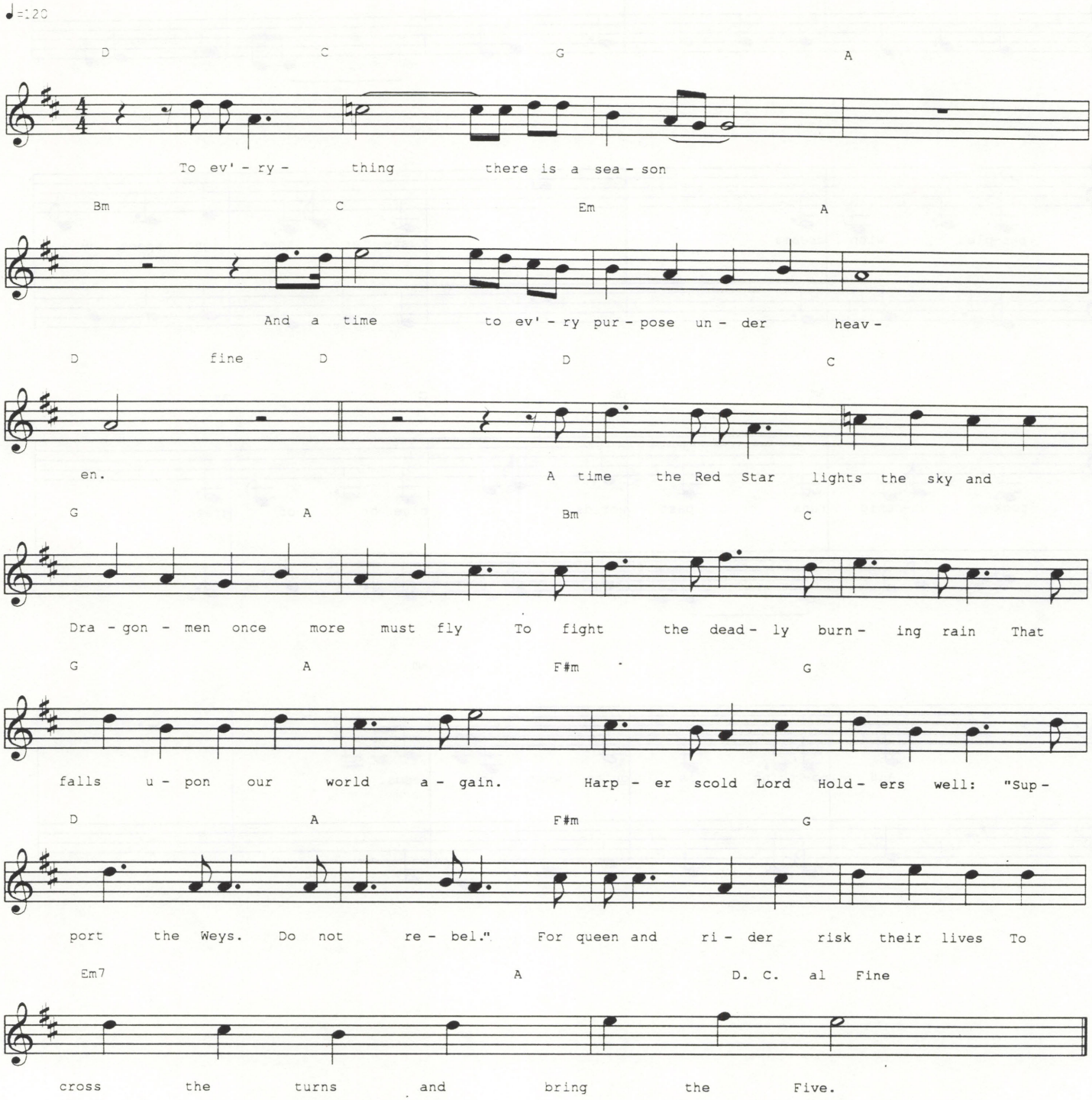

chorus from the Book of Ecclesiastes
Inspiration: Anne McCaffrey's "Dragon" books, especially "All the Weyrs of Pern"

CHORUS:
D C G A
To everything there is a season
Bm C Em A D
And a time to every purpose under heaven.

D C
A time the red star lights the sky,
G A
And dragonmen once more must fly
Bm C
To fight the deadly, burning rain
G A
That falls upon our world again.
F#m G
Harper, scold Lord Holders well
D A
"Support the weyrs. Do not rebel."
F#m G
For queen and rider risk their lives
Em7 A
To cross the Turns and bring the Five.

(CHORUS)

A time when those who forward came
Still wish that life had stayed the same.
And golden queens now fight to kill.
Harper use your subtle skill,
As man dragon nearly die
When to the Red Star they both fly;
And sing the guardian lullabies
As yourn boy meets the white runt's eyes.

(CHORUS)

A time to seek a seahold child,
A harper talent living wild,
A creative source so true and strong
Piping to fire lizard song.
Harper, guide your craftsmen well
To listen close and then to tell
Of rage that like an old sore lies
Festering under Southern skies.

(CHORUS)

A time to rest and stand apart
As dragons rescue failing heart,
And let another take the lead.
Your guidance, harper, we still need.
A time to learn, as learn we must,
Of treasures 'neath volcanic dust,
And knowledge lost we now regain.
We strive to end the deadly rain.

(CHORUS)

A time to view a job well done,
The battle has been fought and won,
The life lived true and to the full.
And still you feel the future's pull.
Harper know your heart's delight
Must be another's promise bright.
The cup is drained, the wineskin's dry.
A time to say a last "Good-bye".

(CHORUS)

All of Space Between

Words & Music by Douglas F. Wu

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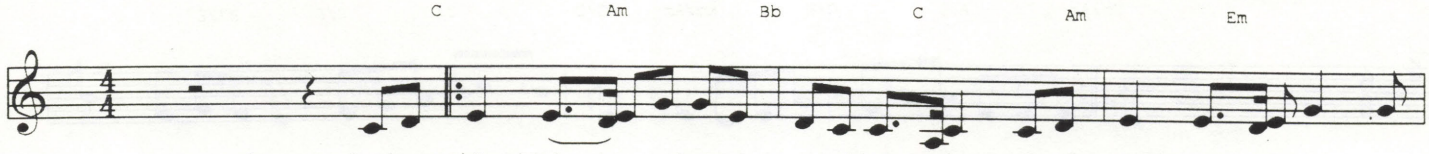
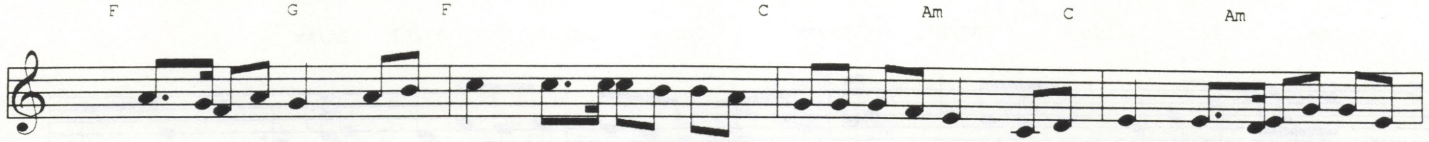
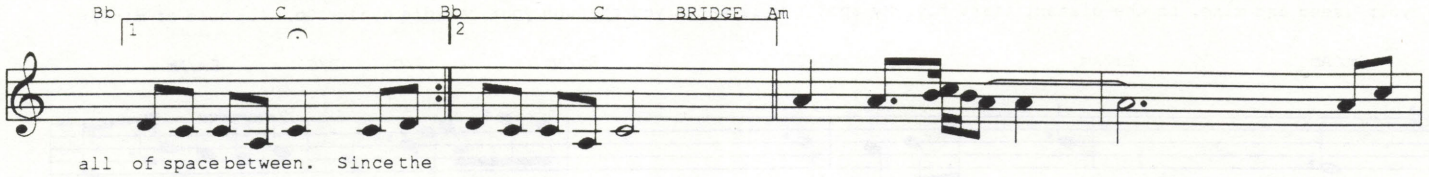
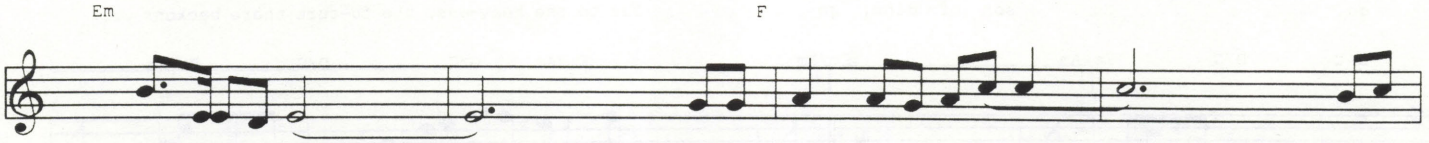
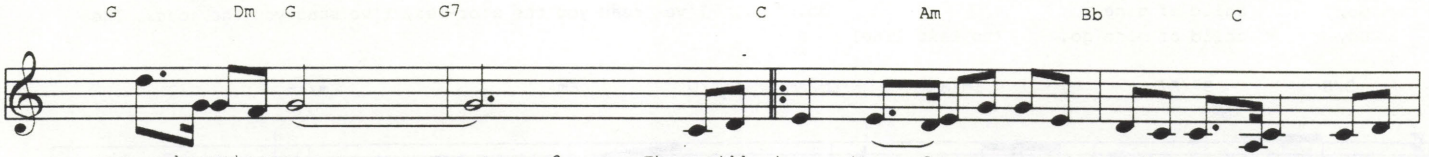
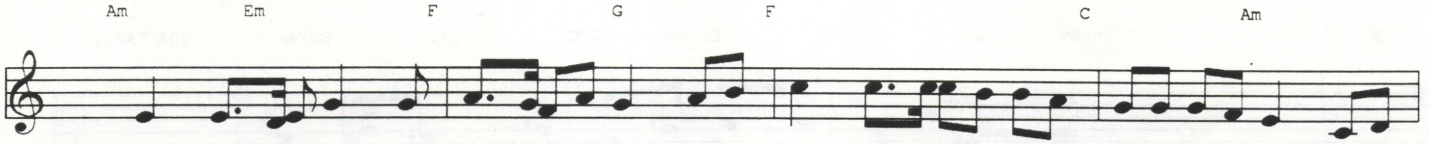


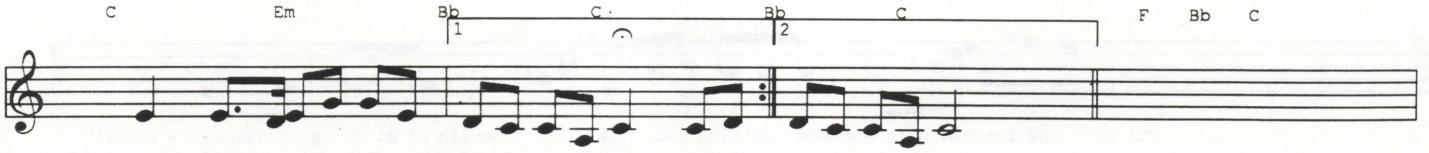








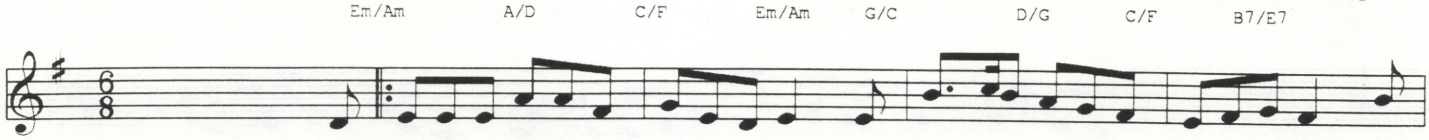




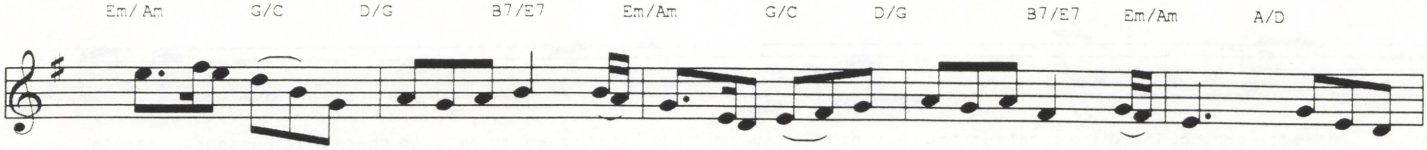
Child of Mine

Lyrics by Dina Pearlman

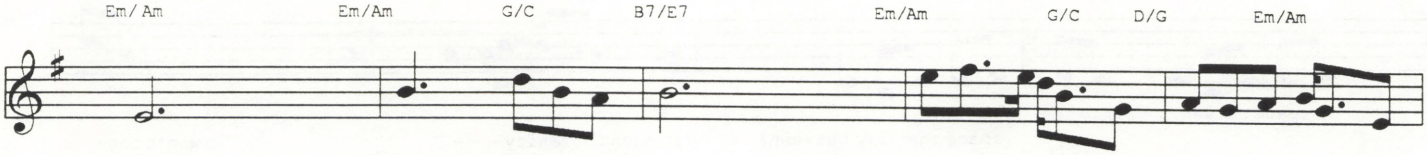
Music by Dina Pearlman & Doug Wu



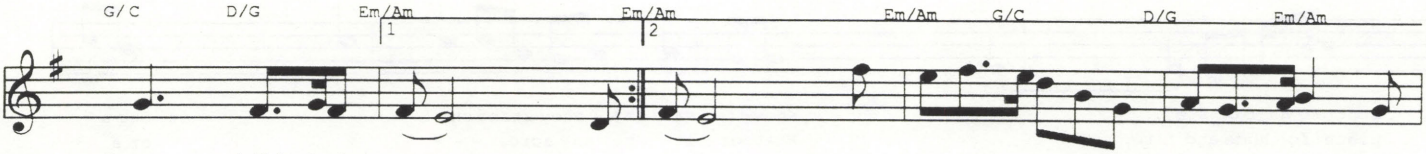
My grand-fa-ther told me of new-fan-gled cars. My fat-her just scoffed a-bout land-ing on Mars, But
dreamed as a child - of go-ing to space, Of trav-el-ing high to a far dis-tant place, But
take your to-mor-rows be-fore they are gone, A thousand new suns mean a thousand new dawns. Take



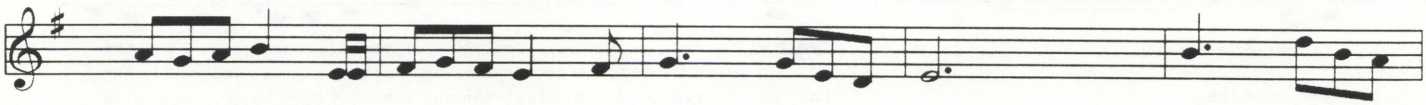
I've lived to see the first man in space, We've been to the moon, we've en-tered the race So go, Child of mine,
time pass-es by, my chance is now gone, I on-ly can fly far a - way in a song, So go, Child of mine,
your seed and mine, to the distant stars fly, My spirit will watch you through your child's eyes. Go, Child of mine,



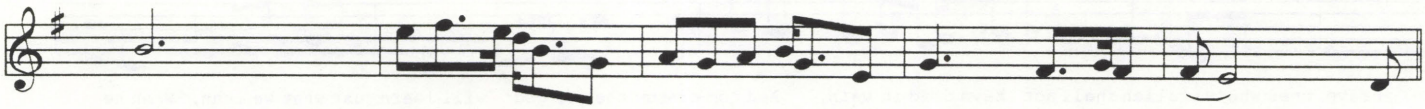
go. Go, daugh-ter mine, go Out to the heav-ens, the fu-ture there beckons you,
go. Go, son of mine, go Out to the heav-ens, the fu-ture there beckons you,
go. Go son of mine, go Out to the heav-ens, the fu-ture there beckons you,



Go, child of mine go. I (BRIDGE)
Go, child of mine go. I've read you the stor-ies, I've sung you the songs, The
Go, child of mine go. (to last line)

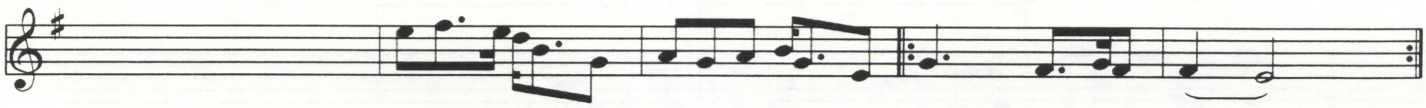


task is now yours, Make re-a-li-ty strong, Now go child of mine, go. Go, daugh - ter mine,



go, Out to the heav-ens, the fu-ture there beckons you, Go child of mine, go. So

(Last time only)



Out to the future, such wonders awaiting you. Go, child of mine, go. (Repeat 3 times)

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Discovery Day

Lyrics: Chuck Phillips and Francine Mullen
Melody: "Jamaica Farewell" by Irving Burgie

C F
On the bay where the dolphins play
C G C
Stands the shuttle, waiting break of day
F
The people gathered, couldn't keep them back
C G C
And the 'gator swam by hoping for a snack.

F
CHORUS: And she's on her way, mi o may
G C
Won't be back for many a day
F
My eyes are searching the sky, watching her fly
C G C
On her way to the skies, she blazes the way.

You see her there, she's standing proud
She seems to draw her strength from the crowd
She stands so tall, she's ready to fly
And the place for Discovery is in the sky

(CHORUS)

I come to launch, oh lord it was dark
Searching high and low for a place to park
All the people lined up, to and fro
And all they said is: "Discovery go!"

(CHORUS)

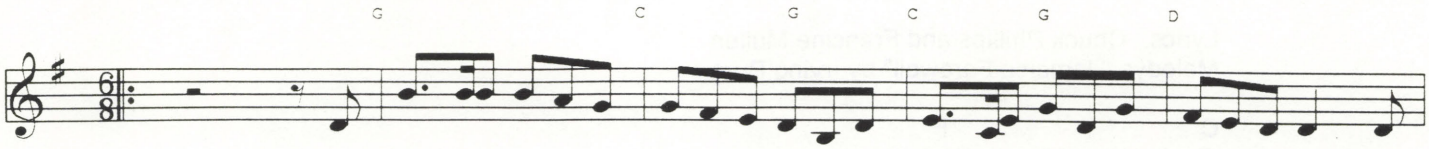
I waited long, and prayed some too
As the sky lightened up and turned to blue
An orange flame, and a hellish roar
As Discovery opens up a long locked door.

(CHORUS)

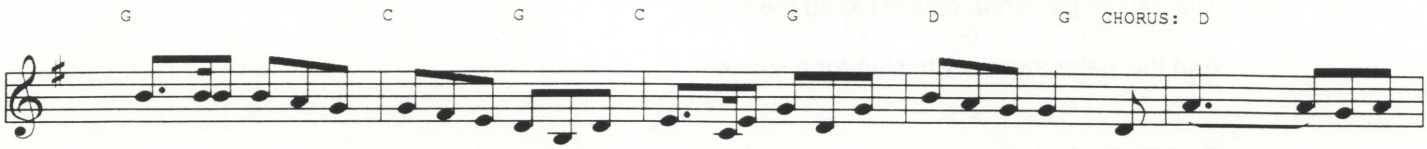
Copyright 1988 by Chuck Phillips and Francine Mullen

Graduation

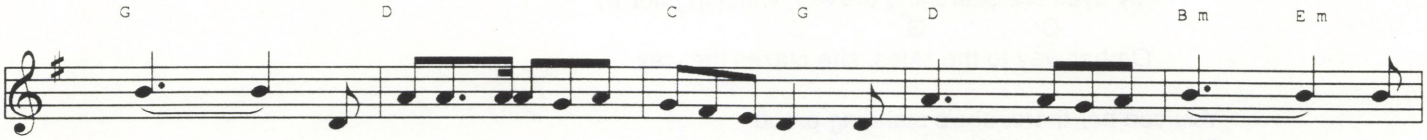
Words & Music by Douglas Wu



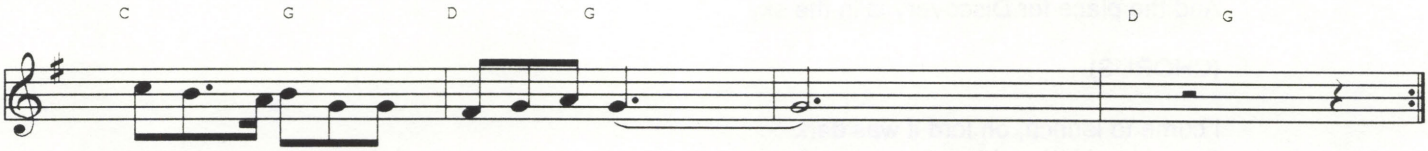
1. We've said our goodbyes to our friends and our families. At dawn we are ready, today is the day, come
2. We've finished our testing, we're done with our training. Our crews are the finest, or so we've been told. All
3. So ma - ny a-spire, but so few are selected, our hearts are rejoicing to be with the ones, Who'll
4. Our travels will take us to worlds without number, We'll walk on the surface and breathe the new air, Our



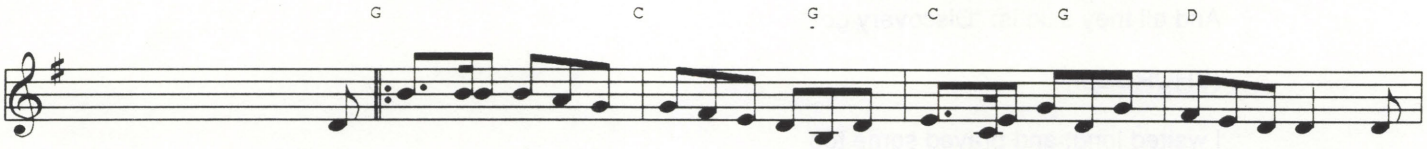
down to the shuttle and wish us good fortune, The starships are waiting to take us away. A - way, yes, a -
hands to their stations, and fire up the engines, We're bound for the stars, let the journey unfold!
leap from the crad-le in - to the far reaches, Where new worlds are circling a-li-en suns!
standard shall fly under skies of strange colors, To let all the universe know we were there!



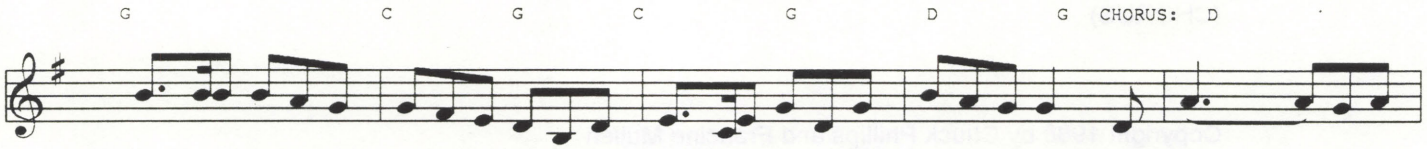
way, Fare - well to the home - world and those who must stay. A - way, yes, a - way, The



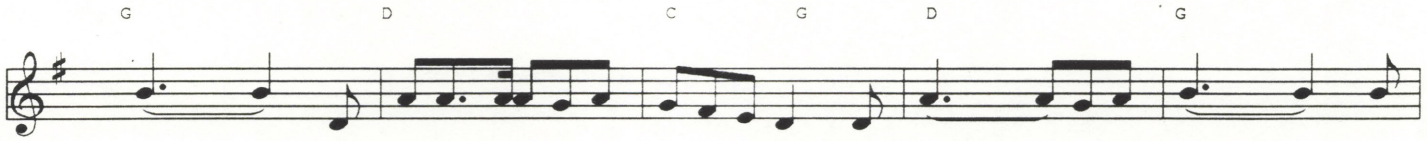
star - lanes are calling and we're on our way.



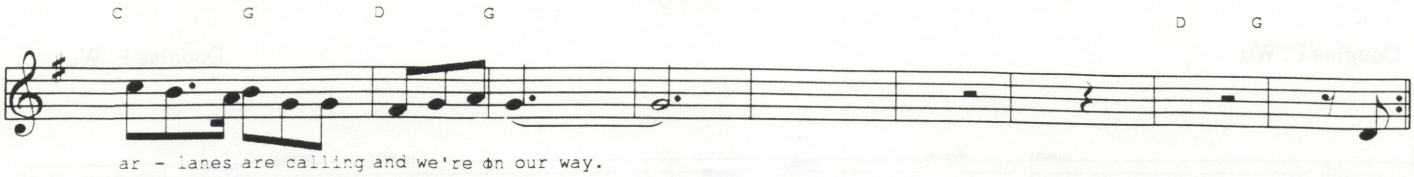
5. There's room for all peoples out there in Forever, There's no need for war and the suff'ring thereof, Let's
6. The heart of the mission is growth for our people, For seeds that lie dormant will fade into dust, We'll
7. Our numbers are few, but our wills are unflagging, For we are the vanguard that blazes the way. If
8. We can-not i-ma-gine a great-er ad-ven-ture, Our des-tin-y calls and our spir-its res-pond. No



offer our neighbors the true hand of friendship, And outshine the stars with the light of our love! A - way, yes, a -
give them the freedom to reach ever outward, A freedom we'll buy with our lives if we must!
fortune should grant that our voyage be successful, Our friends and our families will join us someday.
peril or hard-ship will ev-er de-ter us, From here to the gal-ax-y's end, and be-yond!



way, Fare - well to the home - world and those who must stay, A - way, yes, a - way, The



(Last time through, ending chords are D, D7, C, G.)

Done Sung Along

lyrics by Don Cochran
melody "Done Laid Around" by Paul Clayton,
Larry Ehrlich, David Lazar & Tom Six.

D
Done sung along and played a song at the con before,
G D
Filking till past four, filking till past four.

Done sung along and played a song at the con before,
Em A D
And the filkers are meeting here tonight.

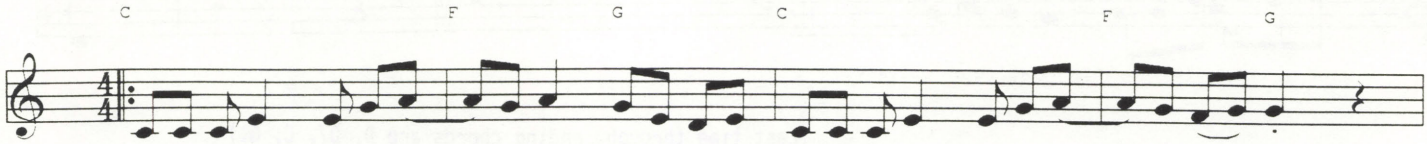
With melody and harmony, everyone will sing.
let our voices ring, let our voices ring.
With melody and harmony, everyone will sing.
And the filkers are meeting here tonight.

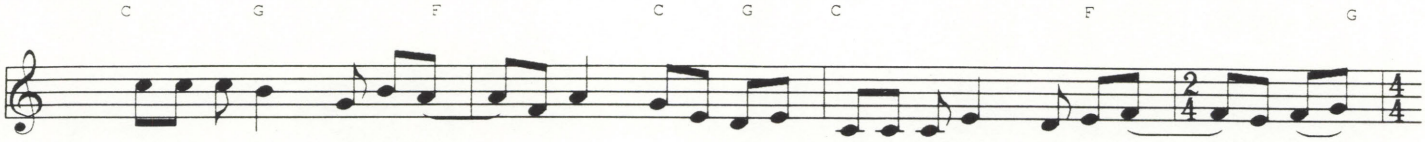
We'll sing around, make guitars sound till the break of day,
Anyone can stay, anyone can play.
We'll sing around, make guitars sound till the break of day,
And the filkers are meeting here tonight.

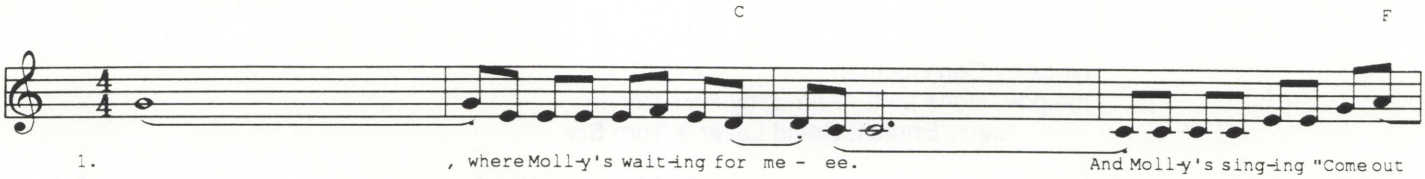
Molly

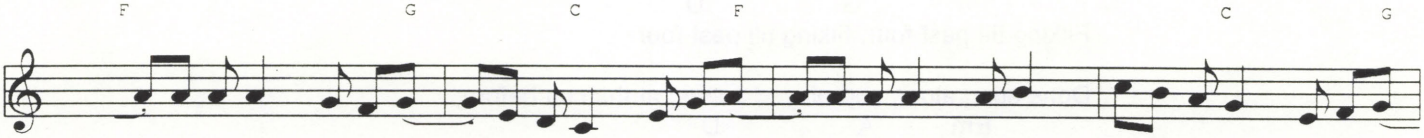
Douglas F. Wu

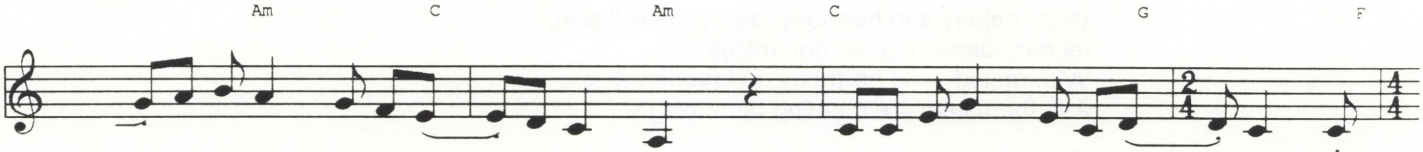
Douglas F. Wu

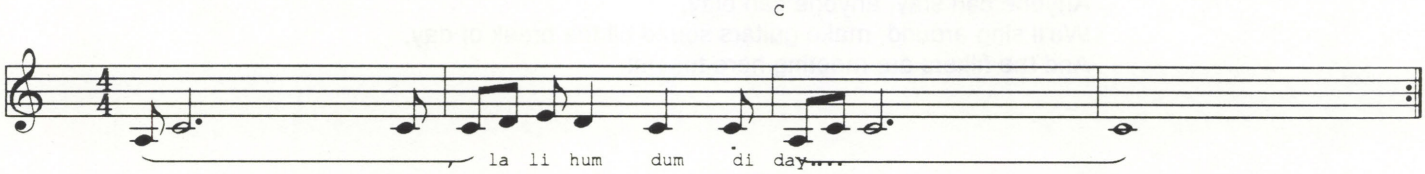


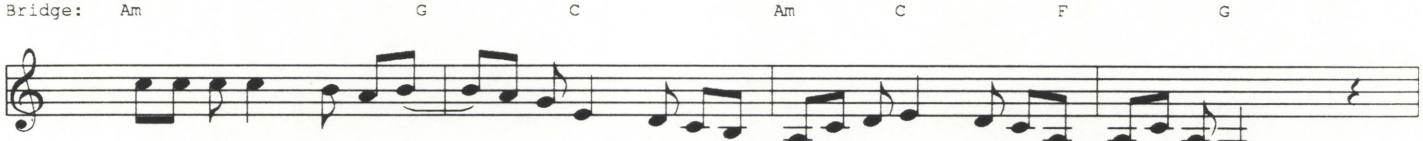












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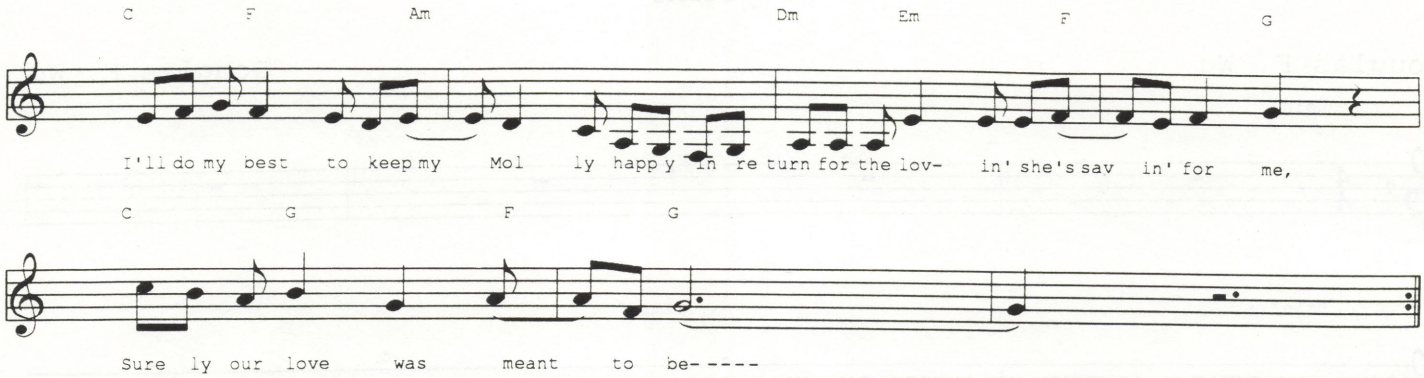

Iron Fingers

Words: Francine Mullen & Dina Pearlman
Tune: Iron Mistress

Am G Am G E
Iron fingers, let me sew till the pattern starts to show.
Am G Am G Am
The picture on the cloth doth grow into a thing of beauty.
Dm G Am E Am
But will I finish, will I see, what this work is meant to be?
G Am E Am G Am
I've labored here an eternity. Is there an end for me?

Iron seamstress, let me see what creation there may be
Lying there upon your knee with your fine hand upon it.
But even as your fingers tire, a dragon shimmers, breathing fire.
Gleaming threads to life aspire...such is your artistry.

Iron seamstress, working there, don't you know my walls are bare?
That tapestry would hang so fair, I promise I would love it!
But if you have some other plan for the one there in your hand,
Though it's the finest in the land, when can you make another?

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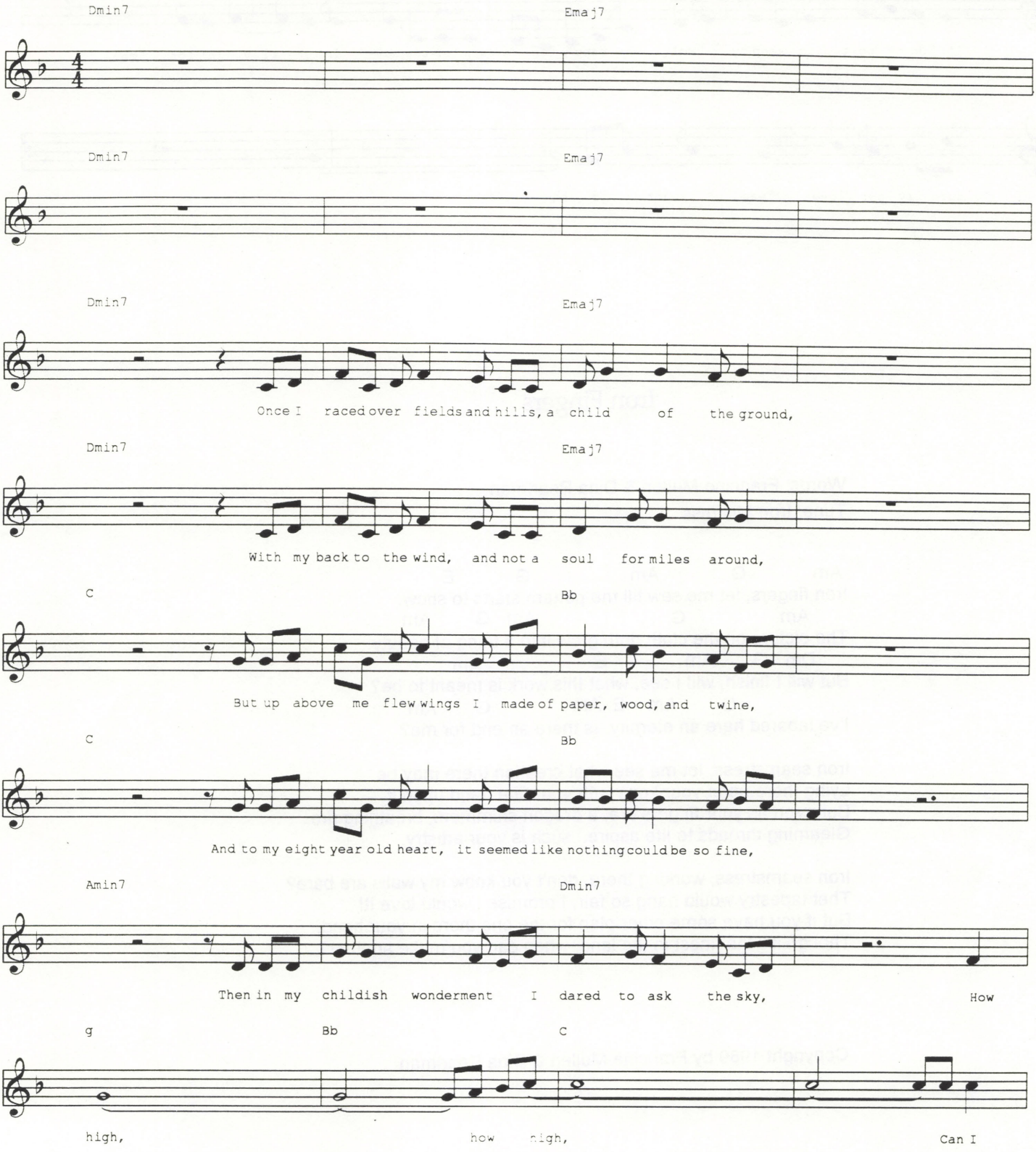
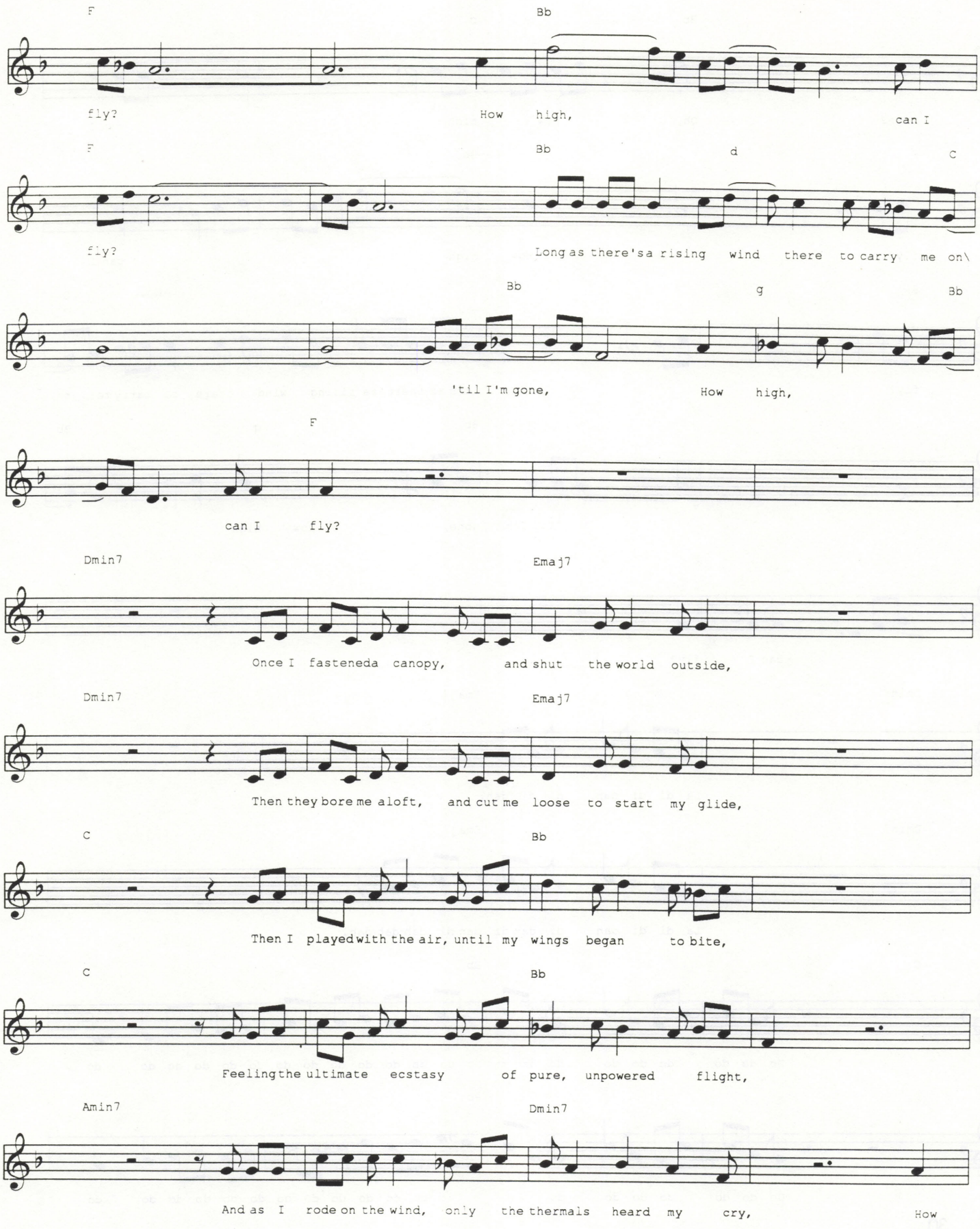
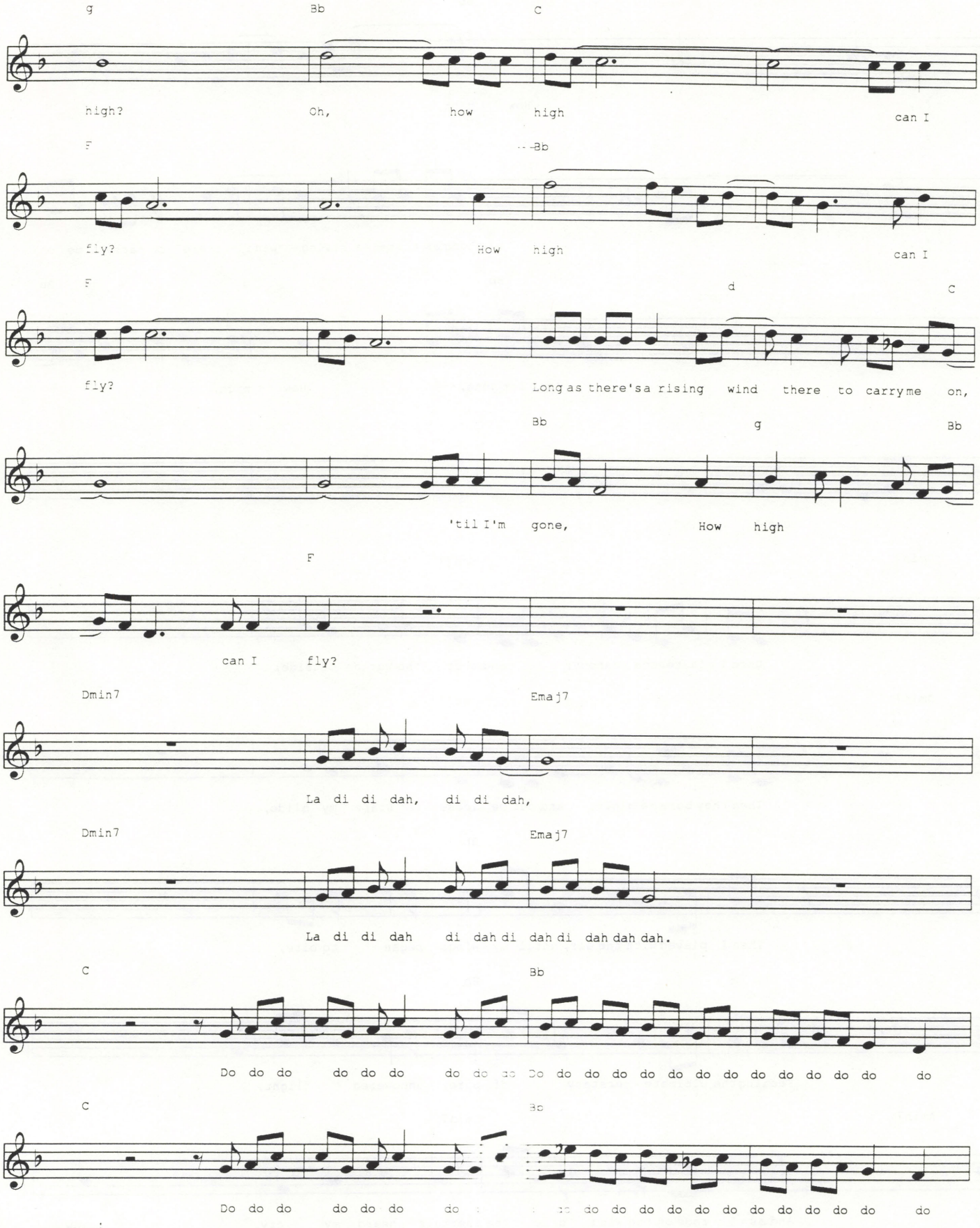
Skyborne

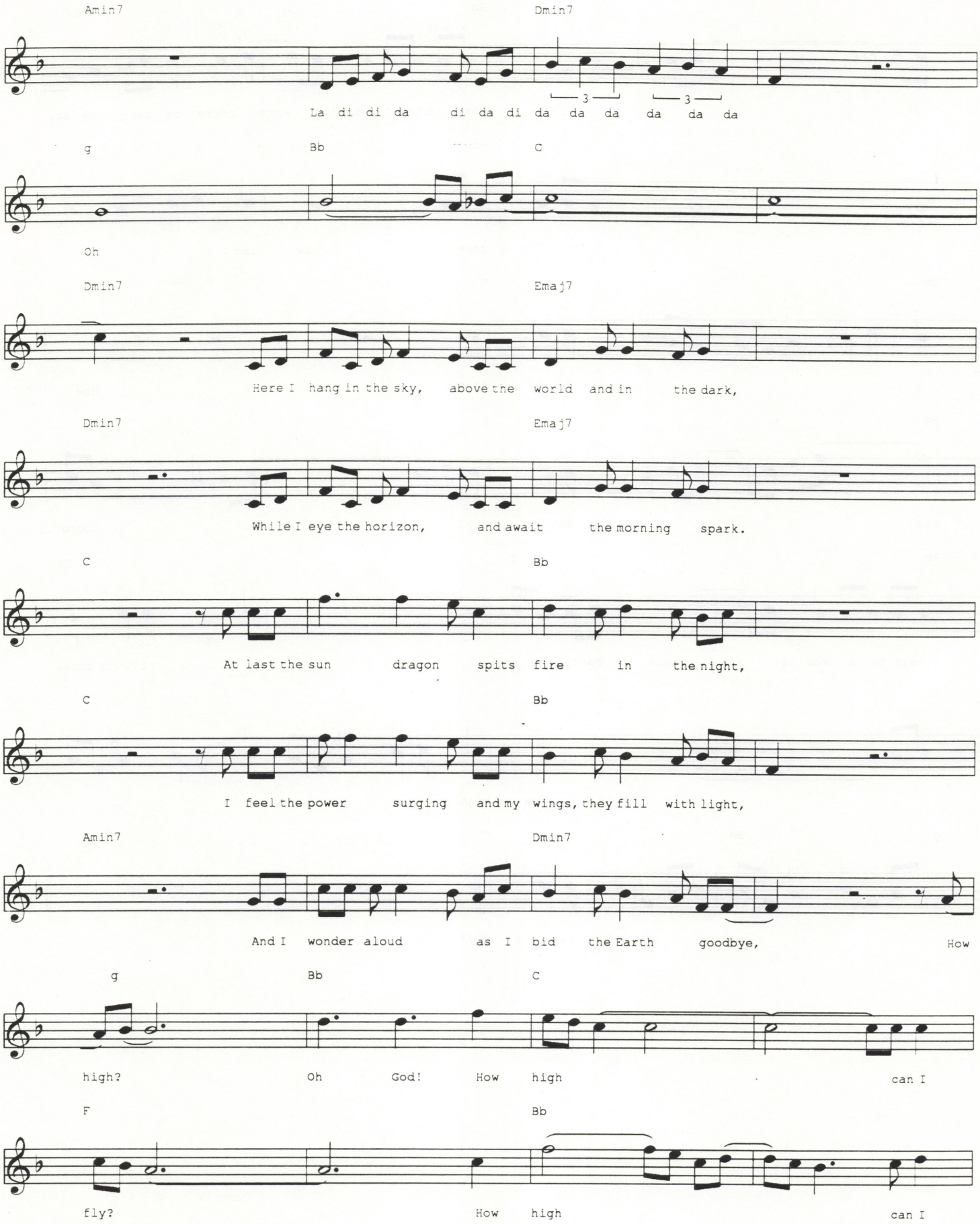
Douglas F. Wu

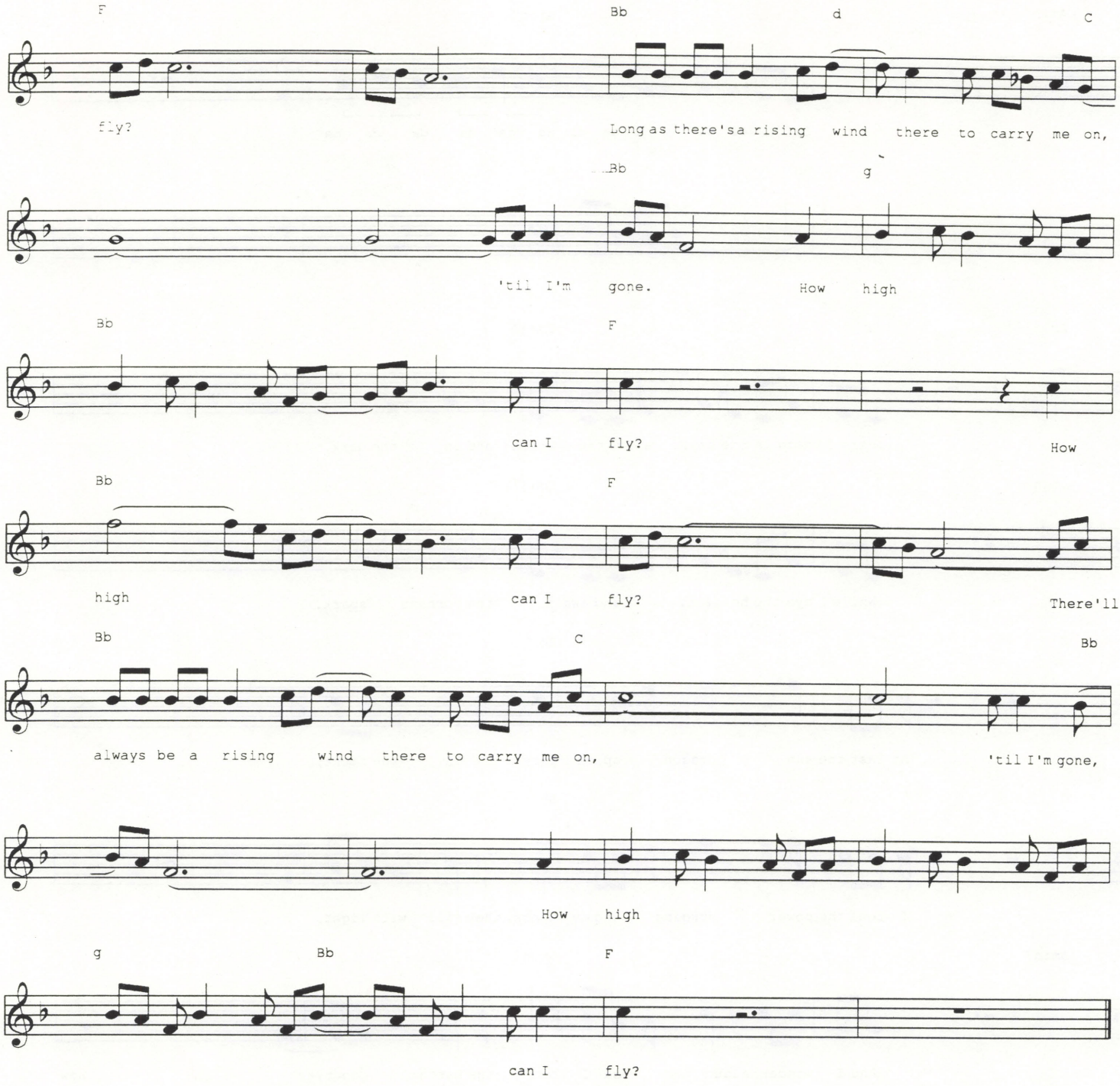
Douglas F. Wu




F
Bb
fly? How high, can I
F
Bb
d
C
fly? Long as there's a rising wind there to carry me on\
Bb
g
Bb
'til I'm gone, How high,
F
can I fly?
Dmin7
Emaj7
Once I fasteneda canopy, and shut the world outside,
Dmin7
Emaj7
Then they bore me aloft, and cut me loose to start my glide,
C
Bb
Then I playedwith the air, until my wings began to bite,
C
Bb
Feelingthe ultimate ecstasy of pure, unpowered flight,
Amin7
Dmin7
And as I rode on the wind, only the thermals heard my cry, How

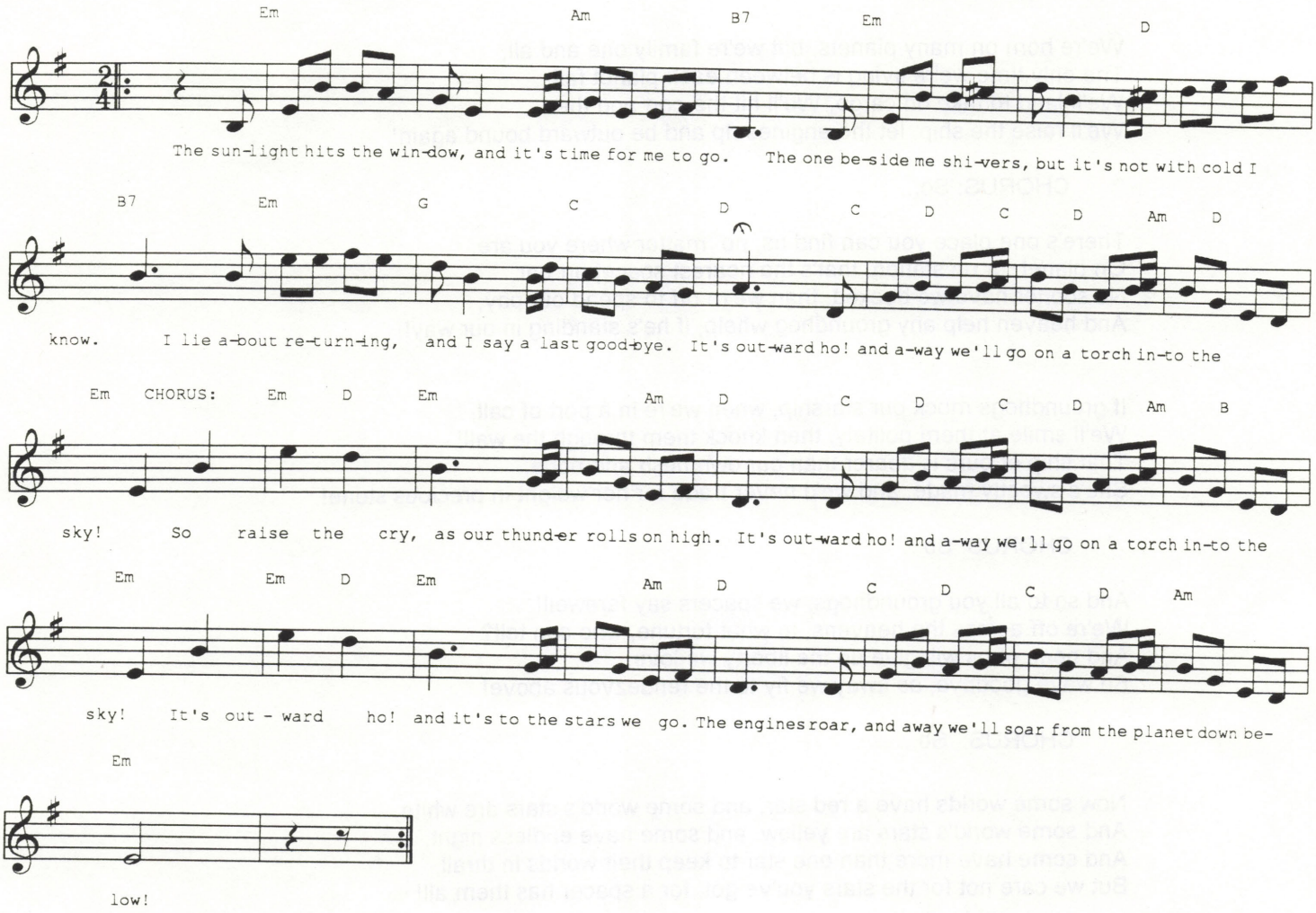

g Bb C
high? Oh, how high can I
F Bb
fly? How high can I
F d C
fly? Long as there's a rising wind there to carry me on,
Bb g Bb
'til I'm gone, How high
F
can I fly?
Dmin7 Emaj7
La di di dah, di di dah,
Dmin7 Emaj7
La di di dah di dah di dah di dah dah dah.
C Bb
Do do do do do do do do do Do do do do do do do do do do do do do do
C Bb
Do do do do do do do do do do do do do do do do do do do do do do do do


Amin7
Dmin7
La di di da di da di da da da da da da
g
Bb
C
Oh
Dmin7
Emaj7
Here I hang in the sky, above the world and in the dark,
Dmin7
Emaj7
While I eye the horizon, and await the morning spark.
C
Bb
At last the sun dragon spits fire in the night,
C
Bb
I feel the power surging and my wings, they fill with light,
Amin7
Dmin7
And I wonder aloud as I bid the Earth goodbye, How
g
Bb
C
high? Oh God! How high can I
F
Bb
fly? How high can I


F
Bb
d
C
fly?
Long as there's a rising wind there to carry me on,
Bb
g
'til I'm gone.
How high
Bb
F
can I fly?
How
Bb
F
high
can I fly?
There'll
Bb
C
Bb
always be a rising wind there to carry me on,
'til I'm gone,
How high
g
Bb
F
can I fly?

Song of the Merchant Spacers

by Douglas Wu
Copyright 1987



Em Am B7
The sunlight hits the window, and it's time for me to go.
Em D B7
The one beside me shivers, but it's not with cold I know.
Em G C D
I lie about returning, and I say a last good-bye.
C D C D Am D Em
It's outward ho! and away we'll go on a torch into the sky!

Em D Em Am D
CHORUS: So raise the cry, as our thunder rolls on high.
C D C D Am B Em
It's outward ho! and away we'll go on a torch into the sky!
Em D Em Am D
It's out - ward ho! and it's to the stars we go.
C D C D Am Em
The engines roar, and away we'll soar from the planet down below!

No world can claim a spacer, for it's in our blood to roam.
Our breath's the hardest vacuum, and between the stars is home.
You'll mever find us clinging like moss upon the ground,
For outer space is the only place for the freest folk around!

CHORUS: So...

We're born on many planets, but we're family one and all,
The only time we're living is between each planet fall,
We'll land to take on cargo, We'll hit the port and then,
We'll raise the ship, let the engines rip and be outward bound again!

CHORUS: So...

There's one place you can find us, no matter where you are,
On planet, or on station, that's the nearest spaceport bar,
No sooner have we docked, than we're off to spend our pay,
And heaven help any groundhog whelp, if he's standing in our way!

If groundhogs mock our starship, when we're in a port of call,
We'll smile at them politely, then knock them through the wall!
That ship of ours is dearer than our own flesh and bone,
She's sweetly made, and we'd never trade for her weight in precious stone!

CHORUS: So...

And so to all you groundhogs, we spacers say farewell!
We're off across the heavens, to what fortune, who can tell?
And none of us will give up the liberty we love,
So wave goodbye, as away we fly to the rendezvous above!

CHORUS: So...

Now some worlds have a red star, and some world's stars are white,
And some world's stars are yellow, and some have endless night,
And some have more than one star to keep their worlds in thrall,
But we care not for the stars you've got, for a spacer has them all!

CHORUS: So...

(Slowly, with sentiment)
The stars go on forever, but a life must end in death,
And this is what I'll ask for as I take my final breath,
Don't leave me in the graveyard of a planet-loving race,
(Pause...then with GUSTO!)
Just use my ass for reaction mass, and commit my soul to space!

CHORUS: So...